



Newsletter of the Birdwatchers' Society of Andhra Pradesh
New Series Volume 13 Number 9 September 2016

FIELD OUTING: Sunday, 25th September 2016: Ananthagiri Forest. Meeting point: Punjagutta (opp. Mangatrai Pearls), 6.00AM.

Besides being a pleasant woodland walk, Ananthagiri has always been very productive from the birding viewpoint, and is a paradise for forest birds. One can see Flycatchers, White-eyes, Chloropsis, Orange-headed Thrush, Nightjars, among others. The Indian Pitta and the Brown Fish Owl have been reported earlier. This will be a half-day trip. For further details and to co-ordinate, please contact Ms Surekha Aitabathula (99490-38532).

AWC Diaries

Srikanth Bhamidipati & Ambika Pradhan



Black Buck (Photo: Umesh Mani)

The AWC is a wonderful opportunity for birders to learn about different species and habitats. This prospect of this December 2015 trip was a very exciting one, as we had planned to first explore Kurnool and Mahbubnagar districts for the AWC, and then head to a special destination for birders.....Rollapadu.

Setting out on our journey from Hyderabad, our first birding site was Devarakadra Lake. This was my first trip to this location and I was stunned. I had heard that this was a good birding site, but to my surprise there wasn't even a drop of water in that lake. This really saddened me. We saw some House Crows (*Corvus splendens*) and about 8 Painted Storks (*Mycteria leucocephala*) on top of a tree – and that was that!

Hoping for some good sightings we proceeded to our next destination, Koilsagar Dam, a few kilometers away. On the way we spotted a Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) hovering near

the backwaters. This was a good omen and our hopes soared. Here is what Ambika has to say about her experience of that site:

"I consider the time we reached there as a 'golden time' for birders. What we saw there was beyond beautiful. The entire water-body was bustling with activity. The clear blue water was speckled with spots of black, white and rufous brown. We were greeted by a Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) that was boldly posing just about two feet from us. The little one was not the least bit bothered by the presence of humans in its surroundings. Moving ahead, we found a Small Pratincole (*Glareola lactea*) sitting between thin dry grass, staring right at us – I found it to be one of the cutest little birds I've ever seen!"

The funniest misjudgment was a friend mistaking a stone for a crocodile - which shocked almost everyone there!



Glossy Ibis (Photo: Srikanth Bhamidipati)

Amazed by the area covered by the water body we decided to halt there for a bit longer than planned. Time passed quickly while observing the behaviour of birds like Common Pochards (*Aythya ferina*), Common Teal (*Anas crecca*), Indian Spot-billed Ducks (*Anas poecilorhyncha*), Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) and Cormorants. We had beautiful sightings of the Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), Black-headed Ibis (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*), River Terns (*Sterna aurantia*), Whiskered Terns (*Chlidonias hybrida*) Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*), and Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*).



Isabelline Wheatear
(Photo: Srikanth Bhamidipati)

While all the birders were busy clicking images of Pochards and other species, Lawrence uncle and I decided to walk towards the wooded area to try and spot a few more birds. We observed a lone bird sitting on top of a rock. After consultation with our *guru* we confirmed the ID of the bird as Isabelline Wheatear (*Oenanthe isabellina*). This sighting was the highlight of our day.

From here we decided to go to Makhtal Lake. On further enquiry, we were told that lake was completely dry with no bird life. Disappointed, we decided to head to our first pit stop,

Kurnool. By now everyone was hungry and we decided to stop for lunch. We spotted quite a few Short-toed Snake Eagles (*Circaetus gallicus*) en route. Finishing lunch we resumed our journey towards Kurnool, keeping a keen lookout for birds.



Green Bee-eater (Photo: Srikanth Bhamidipati)

On the way, looking at the map, close to Kothakota town, we saw what looked like a huge water body. We turned on the 'Columbus mode' in us and started looking for this water body, which turned out to be Kanyapalli Lake, rich in vegetation with a small reservoir built around it. The location looked promising for a wide variety of birds, and we had a good survey of the location, spotting the regular birds but in good numbers. We saw Blue-tailed Bee-eaters (*Merops philippinus*), Darters (*Anhinga melanogaster*), Cormorants, a wide variety of Ducks, Kingfishers and many more. As we were birding, a lot of local kids showed interest in what we were doing, and tried to help us spot birds. We had some memorable interactions with the kids. When we were leaving, the kids sent us off with shouts of "Baahubali.... Baahubali...." targeted at one of our co-birders!

Reaching Kurnool, we parked our tired bodies at Haritha resort. By this time everyone was exhausted and eagerly waiting for some local delicacies which were arranged for by our fellow birder. After a good shower, we met for dinner. The food was spicy, leaving some of us in tears – curd was required to cool their burning tongues!

We, then, retired for the day, looking forward to the morrow.



Indian Golden Oriole (Photo: Srikanth Bhamidipati)

Day 2

We began our day by splitting into two groups. One group took off to Rollapadu and the other group waited at the hotel to receive our friend Umesh, who was to join us today. On the way to Rollapadu we stopped at our first site, Gargeyapuram, which has a lake formed due to rainfall. Here we spotted some Spot-billed Ducks, Pochards, Asian Openbills (*Anastomus oscitans*), Storks and many more waterfowl. There were also a couple of raptors, like Eurasian Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*) and Short-toed Snake Eagle.

After spending an hour at the lake we proceeded towards the most awaited site – Rollapadu. En route we spotted many Egrets and regular birds. It was almost 8:00AM when we reached Nandikotkur, and we decided to stop for some breakfast before our big day.



Montagu's Harrier (Photo: Umesh Mani)



Pallid Harrier
(Photo: Srikanth Bhamidipati)

We were greeted by Harriers on the way to Rollapadu and this was a good sight for all. There were many of them, flying around as well as perched on the ground; we identified the Pallid (*Circus macrourus*), Montagu's (*Circus pygargus*) and Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*). There were a few raptors which were flying high and after lots of clicks we narrowed them down to 2 species - Bonelli's Eagle (*Aquila fasciata*) and Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*).



Hen Harrier
(Photo: Srikanth Bhamidipati)



Osprey (Photo: Srikanth Bhamidipati)

We entered the sanctuary immediately after reaching Rollapadu and started searching for the Lesser Floricans (*Sypheotides indicus*) which were spotted earlier in the year. All the regular birds, mostly residents, were spotted in the sanctuary, and then we decided to go to the Forest Department rest house. Here we were greeted by the Bustard man of Rollapadu, Adhisheshaiah, with whom we had a very good rapport during our previous visits. He guided us to our rooms for some rest but our enthusiastic younger generation was interested in clicking some owls. They saw the Spotted Owlet (*Athene brama*) inside the rest house.



Spotted Owlet
(Photo: Srikanth Bhamidipati)

Soon, our other team arrived with Umesh; I was really happy meeting him after all our previous telephonic interactions.



Grey Francolin (Photo: Umesh Mani)

We proceeded to our next destination, and another important site for AWC, Alaganur Reservoir. This is the main water source for all the agricultural land around that area, and a home to many important birds. On the way to the reservoir we saw a lot of common birds like Indian Silverbills (*Euodice malabarica*), Grey Francolin (*Francolinus pondicerianus*), Common Kestrel, Munias, Baya Weaver (*Ploceus philippinus*), etc.



Baya Weaver (female) (Photo: Umesh Mani)



Indian Silverbill on Baya Weaver nest
(Photo: Umesh Mani)

One interesting thing observed here was how the Silverbills were trying to move into the Weaver's nest.

Suddenly our eyes caught sight of a bird, sitting on top of an electric pole – it was a Red-necked Falcon (*Falco chicquera*), which was chasing off a Laughing Dove (*Stigmatopelia senegalensis*). When we got close to the reservoir, we spotted something which at first looked like a big eagle as it just zoomed past the car. The first instinct is often correct – as it was this time. The bird was a Greater Spotted Eagle (*Aquila clanga*) which perched on a tree close to the canal which passes through the reservoir.



Red-necked Falcon (Photo: Srikanth Bhamidipati)

As soon as we entered the reservoir the first sighting was a Greater Painted-snipe (*Rostratula benghalensis*) which was stationary for a few moments and then flew away, seeing the company. There were all the regular species along with a few Gulls, Terns, Herons and Ducks.

We decided to move from that view point and check another one closer to the water. We drove around the rocks which surrounded the lake and got close to the water body. Here we saw a few Painted Storks, Kingfishers, Openbills, Pelicans and Flamingos. After spending some time at the lake we decided to go for lunch and headed towards a hotel in Nandikotkur and then headed back to the rest house for a bit of relaxation.



Yellow Wagtail (Photo: Umesh Mani)



Southern Grey Shrike (Photo: Umesh Mani)

At 4:00PM, we went for another round of birding and this time we decided to explore the sanctuary again. Umesh was excited to see the Florican and the Southern Grey Shrike (*Lanius meridionalis*). We also spotted a few Rosy Starlings (*Pastor roseus*) and other common birds along with herds of Blackbucks. With no rare sightings we decided to go toward the reservoir to check for other species, but didn't find anything new. After spending time here till late evening we called it a day and headed back to the rest house. Exhausted from the day's birding activity, we still completed one of the most important tasks of the day – the bird list. It's always a great exercise to sit in the group and prepare the list, as interesting conversations come up during the task and helps in increasing our knowledge. Once done, we retired to bed dreaming about the next day's sightings, especially the Great Indian Bustard.



Red-naped Ibis (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Day3

Next morning I guided the others to that part of the sanctuary where I had spotted the GIB earlier that year. Lawrence uncle took on the task of searching for the GIB, but ended up finding a male Florican! After observing the bird everyone was happy. I spotted a female with 2 chicks. Everyone was joyful to see this happy family.

We continued our journey and came across more Ospreys, Harriers, Eagles and Kestrels. There was one Kestrel which looked quite different from our regular species, and once we

reviewed all images from our shutterbugs we confirmed the species to be the Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*) – an important sighting.



Lesser Kestrel (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Happy about sighting some important species we decided to head towards the reservoir. En route, we stopped near the fields and saw a lot of activity of smaller birds like Buntings, about 200 Grey Wagtails, Stonechats, Pipits, Larks and many other common birds. At the reservoir we did not find anything new.



Common Hawk Cuckoo
(Photo: Srikanth Bhamidipati)

It was around 1:00PM, and we decided to head back to the rest house for lunch. Here our friends clicked images of Parakeets, Owlet and Common Hawk Cuckoo (*Hierococcyx varius*).

One of our vehicles had been troubling us since morning, not starting – so, while we waited for a mechanic to arrive, we decided to do what we knew best – birding. Once the mechanic arrived, we headed towards Kurnool city where the service center was located. Leaving the vehicle there, we headed back to Hyderabad in one car – it was a tight fit with 6 people in a small Wagon R! But one topic kept our energy levels at an all time high – that was BIRDING!

Some more photos taken during the trip:



Chestnut-shouldered Petronia



Common Hoopoe



Brahminy Starling



Greater Coucal



White-headed Ibis



White-eyed Buzzard



Eurasian Collared Dove



Common Stonechat (male)
(Photos: Umesh Mani)



Common Stonechat (female)



Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse (female)



Oriental Honey Buzzard



Scaly-breasted Munia



Blyth's Reed Warbler

(Photos: Umesh Mani)

Listed below are the birds spotted during our trip:

1	Ruddy Shelduck	15	White-throated Kingfisher	29	Scaly-breasted Munia
2	Cotton Pygmy-Goose	16	Pied Kingfisher	30	Lesser Whistling-duck
3	Northern Pintail	17	Green Bee-eater	31	Bar-headed Goose
4	Garganey	18	Indian Roller	32	Indian Spot-billed Duck
5	Green-winged Teal	19	Coppersmith Barbet	33	Jungle Bush Quail
6	Common Pochard	20	Eurasian Kestrel	34	Greater Flamingo
7	Indian Peafowl	21	Rose-ringed Parakeet	35	Asian Openbill
8	Gray Francolin	22	Plum-headed Parakeet	36	Woolly-necked Stork
9	Little Grebe	23	Common Iora	37	Painted Stork
10	Little Cormorant	24	Small Minivet	38	Great Cormorant
11	Great Cormorant	25	Bay-backed Shrike	39	Oriental Darter
12	Grey Heron	26	Long-tailed Shrike	40	Spot-billed Pelican
13	Purple Heron	27	Indian Golden Oriole	41	Black-crowned Night Heron
14	Great Egret	28	Black Drongo	42	Eurasian Spoonbill

43	Little Egret	86	White-bellied Drongo	129	Osprey
44	Cattle Egret	87	Rufous Treepie	130	Greater Spotted Eagle
45	Indian Pond Heron	88	House Crow	131	Bonelli's Eagle
46	Glossy Ibis	89	Large-billed Crow	132	White-eyed Buzzard
47	Black-headed Ibis	90	Ashy-crowned Sparrowlark	133	Eurasian Marsh Harrier
48	Red-naped Ibis	91	Indian Bushlark	134	Northern Harrier
49	Black-shouldered Kite	92	Barn Swallow	135	Pallid Harrier
50	Oriental Honey Buzzard	93	Wire-tailed Swallow	136	Montagu's Harrier
51	Short-toed Snake Eagle	94	Red-vented Bulbul	137	Shikra
52	Crested Hawk Eagle	95	Zitting Cisticola	138	Brahminy Kite
53	Black Kite	96	Common Tailorbird	139	Lesser Florican
54	Black-eared Kite	97	Ashy Prinia	140	White-breasted Waterhen
55	Eurasian Coot	98	Plain Prinia	141	Gray-headed Swampphen
56	Black-winged Stilt	99	Large Gray Babbler	142	Yellow-wattled Lapwing
57	Red-wattled Lapwing	100	Yellow-billed Babbler	143	Greater Painted-snipe
58	Kentish Plover	101	Indian Robin	144	Little Stint
59	Little Ringed Plover	102	Oriental Magpie Robin	145	Common Snipe
60	Common Sandpiper	103	Siberian Stonechat	146	Green Sandpiper
61	Common Greenshank	104	Pied Bushchat	147	Common Greenshank
62	Marsh Sandpiper	105	Isabelline Wheatear	148	Barred Buttonquail
63	Wood Sandpiper	106	Rosy Starling	149	Black-headed Gull
64	Common Redshank	107	Asian Pied Starling	150	Brown-headed Gull
65	Small Pratincole	108	Brahminy Starling	151	Black-bellied Tern
66	Whiskered Tern	109	Chestnut-tailed Starling	152	River Tern
67	River Tern	110	Common Myna	153	Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse
68	Rock Pigeon	111	Jerdon's Leafbird	154	Red Collared Dove
69	Eurasian Collared Dove	112	Pale-billed Flowerpecker	155	Spotted Owlet
70	Spotted Dove	113	Purple-rumped Sunbird	156	Indian Nightjar
71	Laughing Dove	114	Western Yellow Wagtail	157	Indian Grey Hornbill
72	Greater Coucal	115	Grey Wagtail	158	Blue-tailed Bee-eater
73	Blue-faced Malkoha	116	White Wagtail	159	Lesser Kestrel
74	Asian Koel	117	White-browed Wagtail	160	Red-necked Falcon
75	Common Hawk Cuckoo	118	Paddyfield Pipit	161	Common Woodshrike
76	Asian Palm Swift	119	House Sparrow	162	Ashy Woodswallow
77	Eurasian Hoopoe	120	Chestnut-shouldered Petronia	163	Black-headed Cuckooshrike
78	Common Kingfisher	121	Indian Silverbill	164	Southern Grey Shrike
79	Ashy Drongo	122	White-browed Bulbul	165	Tawny Pipit
80	Spot-breasted Fantail	123	Rufous-fronted Prinia	166	Red-headed Bunting
81	Rufous-tailed Lark	124	Jungle Prinia	167	Common Rosefinch
82	Oriental Skylark	125	Oriental White-eye	168	Baya Weaver
83	Tawny Lark	126	Common Babbler	169	Red Avadavat
84	Dusky Crag	127	Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	170	Tricolored Munia
85	Red-rumped Swallow	128	Purple Sunbird		

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Ethical Birding – The Only Way

K Sudhir Moorti

I am happy that birding has become an increasingly popular hobby amongst the urban population in India of late. I would like to shed some light on the proper and ethical way of birding, for the benefit of people who are new to this wonderful hobby – especially the younger lot, in whose hands the future of birding rests.

What is birding? I feel birding is more than just sighting birds – it involves observing, studying and recording all about birds – their physical attributes, habitat, behaviour, breeding and, in some cases, migration. Unlike popular misconception Birding is not just sighting birds and identifying them with the help of field guides, the Internet, and senior birders. That is just a part of it.

In the first place what makes you a birder?

I have many times asked other birders what is their favourite species; it's usually a species that is not sighted frequently. It is quite natural to attach more value to things less available. Therefore we have 'common' and 'rare' birds. I would be lying if I said that sighting a rare bird does not excite me. Of course it does! But while in search of these 'rare' species, the more common ones also do bring a smile to my face. The antics of a Drongo, the restlessness of an Ashy Prinia or the noisy hopping around of a bunch of gregarious Babblers – that for me is the pure joy of birding. Sighting a rare bird, or a bird not usually found in the region, makes one 'famous' and surely there is great satisfaction attached to such a feat. However, a word of caution here – do not seek such glory; bird in an ethical way and glory shall definitely come to you. I have personally gone through all these phases and I am sure I made a lot of the mistakes which I am cautioning you against. Over the years, I have learnt that the key is to just enjoy watching birds – the emotions are very important.

I once chanced upon a group of birders, who went about adding species to their list in a flurry of activity, some of them hardly looking at the bird! While the group leader shouted out the common names of the birds, the rest blindly accepted and moved on. In such activity, the checklist becomes a scorecard and birding becomes a race. Some may feel that there is nothing wrong with that – but there are a few do's and don'ts, which we tend to ignore in our overzealous effort to be the top scorer. I shall endeavour to enlist a few hazards here.

The Habitat:

As you may already be aware, different kinds of habitats are home to different species of birds. While on a field trip, please remember the following:

- The habitat is home to many species of flora and fauna. Every single species is important to the eco-system of that place. So try not to disturb the status quo.

- Do not litter! Anything that is not organic is potentially harmful to the habitat. Plastic is a major threat. So don't throw any such things carelessly.
- Do not hack your way into the woods to create a new path. Try to stay on existing paths and trails most of the time.

The Welfare of our Avian Friends

As birders, I am sure everyone would agree that we are their friends and well-wishers. We all love birds, hence the passion towards this great hobby. So here are a few tips to ensure their welfare:

- Avoid disturbing birds or other species present; do not make loud noises or shout. Remember we are guests in their land.
- Try not to get too close to them in your effort to get a better shot.
- Definitely do not throw stones at them to make them fly (don't be horrified – I've seen some photographers do it in their quest for "action shots"!)
- Do not try to flush the birds. E.g. don't send a partner to the other side to draw the bird out of the bush.
- Do not crowd the area; try to be as subtle as possible. E.g. one member of the group shouts out a sighting, and the others start running at breakneck speed for a shot.
- Do not drive deep into the habitat with your vehicle.
- Do not use flash/artificial light while photographing in low light.
- Form small groups of not more than 4 or 5 people while going birding.
- Do not play the call/song to attract the bird – it is highly hazardous. E.g. a female may abandon a potential partner, on listening to the fake breeding call. This is interference and totally unethical

Identification

A very interesting topic, and sometimes also the most controversial. Identifying and recording a bird on a field trip is the essence of birding. It is also a very important part of the data recorded globally to ascertain various aspects of the existence of a particular species. Therefore, it is advisable to be prudent and slightly conservative when identifying birds. Birders follow the good old 'honour system', i.e. your word is taken at face value – so the only person you are answerable to when identifying and recording birds is yourself. Hence, it is all the more important to be careful about what one reports.

- Understand the different parts of a bird's anatomy before you get on the field, so that you are able to put down in words what you have seen.
- Carry a reliable local field guide.
- Before your field trip, try to do some research on the birds found in the area, and their habits.
- If you get a photograph of the bird, well and good; if not, try to remember distinct features of the bird and note them down so you can refer and identify it later.
- Earlier, birders used to sketch the bird and mark the features observed by them; I, however, am not averse to using technology. A photograph is a good way to record, probably the best in today's conditions; either way, be sure of what you have seen.
- If you could not get a photograph, be extremely cautious in recording. Consult experts. If still not sure, just let it go. You can always go back to that place, or see the same bird elsewhere; after all luck is also vital in birding.
- Do not record a species on speculation or conjecture. Only record what has been positively identified. Many times we may go looking for a particular species in that area, which would be a 'lifer' for us – this can make us fall prey to wishful thinking, with every bird looking like the target 'lifer'.
- Check for all factors before confirming the sighting – visible distinctive features; habitat; whether it's a ground bird, bush bird or arboreal; and so on.
- Calls can be very useful in identification, but they are tricky. Lots of birds have similar calls; some have several different calls; some even imitate the calls of other birds. So tread carefully.

When you are new to birding, you usually depend on seniors in the group for identification help. Here's what you can do:

Gently question the basis for identification; this will help you learn to identify on your own, and also understand the strength of your senior's conviction.

Understand how your senior or group leader regards identification. Is he a dedicated and passionate birder, who can say "I am sorry, I don't know" when at a loss? Or does he treat it casually, and just toss out names of species even when he is unsure? Go back and do some research. This is an important part of the learning.

Some group leaders take it upon themselves to make their group the 'best' in the region. In the quest to increase their species

counts, the authenticity of their sighting and reporting is put at risk. Use your own judgement in deciding what to record or what not to.

Birds in Breeding

Birds breed seasonally, and many have interesting breeding rituals, plumages, calls etc. It is great to see and photograph the same, but keep in mind that it is a very important activity for the birds, and the propagation of the entire species may depend on this. Hence, I advise extra caution at such times.

According to a report by Joanna Burger and Michael Gochfeld titled **"Human Distance and Birds: Tolerance and Response Distances of Resident and Migrant Species in India"**, the distance at which a bird could feel disturbed depends on a lot of factors, including the bird's migratory status, the number of people approaching, the time of day, and the bird's total body-length (including tail). This distance is called the flushing distance, and varies among different species of birds.

So the safest approach would be to stay as far away as possible, or get as close as possible without disturbing the bird. The number of people approaching is also an important factor. Bird in smaller groups and maintain a decent distance. Look for signs when the birds become alert; stop right there and don't go any closer.

Nesting

Many times while birding, we come across nests of birds. Nesting is a very interesting and complicated process in birds, and absolutely critical to their survival. Nesting habits differ from species to species. While the male Baya Weaver tries to impress the female with an intricately woven nest, a Hornbill seals off its nest to protect the female and chicks. There is a lot we can learn from nesting habits of birds. Disturbing a nest or birds during nesting is criminal – the bird may move the nest to a less safe and predator-prone area due to your interference; it may also lead to loss of eggs, chicks or even abandonment of the nest. I strongly advise to exercise extreme caution while observing nesting birds. Maintain a safe distance and do not disturb them.

Reporting

It is we birders who provide data to scientists across the world on a daily basis. The wealth of information we provide is invaluable to their research and studies. It also goes a long way in the conservation of birds. Wrong data, therefore, could also lead to ill-planned or wrongly-directed conservation efforts, and a waste of precious resources.

- Reach out to eminent birders and seniors and take their opinion.
- Report all rare sightings to proper authorities with adequate evidence and confirmation of the sighting.

Here's to sensible and ethical birding!

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Bird of the Month

Text: Umesh Mani; Photo: Bhamidipati Srikanth

Jungle Myna (*Acridotheres fuscus*)



Jungle Myna (Ooty, 03-09-2016)

Order: Passeriformes
Family: Sturnidae
Genus: *Acridotheres*
Species: *A. fuscus*
Size: 20-23 cm

Description & distribution: The Jungle Myna, a fierce-looking member of the Starling family, is a resident breeder across its range covering Pakistan, Nepal, India, Bangladesh and Myanmar, east to Indonesia. It is a typical myna, but has dark grey plumage (as against the browner plumage of the Common Myna) and darker on the head and wings. The prominent forehead tuft and bright yellow bill and legs are distinctive. It has a white tail tip and large white wing patches which are very clear in flight. There is no bare patch around the eye. The irises are blue in the southern Indian race, whereas they are yellow in other

birds of the species. Sexes are similar, but juvenile birds are browner.

Habitat & behaviour: The Jungle Myna is usually seen in forests or near cultivation (like paddy fields), close to water. It is omnivorous and an opportunistic feeder, and its diet includes grains, fruits, insects and flower nectar.

Nesting: The Jungle Myna nests in holes, usually in trees, but has been known to nest inside pipes, and in vents or crevices in buildings. The usual clutch consists of 3 to 6 eggs.

Local name: The Jungle Myna is known as 'pahari myna' or 'jungli myna' in Hindi, 'adavigorina' in Telugu, and 'kaattu myna' in Tamil.

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For Private Circulation Only

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